

**Society of American Foresters
Montana Chapter, Established in 1971**



Purpose:

The (Montana Chapter) Society of American Foresters is dedicated to advancing the science, education, technology and practice of forestry; and, to use the knowledge, skills, and conservation ethic of the profession to ensure the continued health and use of forest ecosystems and the present and future use of forest resources to benefit society.

Elected Officers:

Scott Kuehn, Chair

Bob Harrington, Past Chair

Bob Logar, Chair-Elect

Paula Short, Secretary/Treasurer

Executive Committee Meeting Minutes

Date: February 14, 2012

Location: Moon Conference Room, DNRC Forestry Division, Missoula MT

In Attendance: Scott Kuehn, Bob Logar, Amy Helena, Steve Hayes, Paula Short, Tim Spoelma, Mike Vetter, Andrew Beltz, Bob Harrington, Cindy Bertek and via telephone: District Rep. Johnny Hodges, Jim Benedict, Ben Valentine and John Goodburn.

Call to Order – Scott Kuehn

Approval of Past Minutes – Bob Logar/Paula Short

- Minutes from the November meeting are currently unavailable. Bob Harrington took the notes and will submit the minutes as soon as possible.
- Paula has worked with Sherri McWilliams to post minutes from the last several meetings on the website. As soon as November minutes are available and approved, they will be posted.

Secretary / Treasurer's Report – Bob Logar/Paula Short

- Bob and Paula went to U.S. Bank to put Paula on the checking account. There is an issue with the type of account we have going back to when it was first set up in 1971. It was set up as a personal account and needs to be for a business entity. Paula will get that taken care of. Also, as part of the transition, a subcommittee of the Exec. Committee will audit the books per the bylaws.
- Balance - \$12,121.14
- Bob presented the Statement of Financial Position as of 12/31/11 as well as a report of all expenditures from the year.
- Financial report was approved with one amendment (line on the Montana Natural Resources Youth Camp)
- The group discussed investment options for state chapter funds – Bob has looked into options such as CDs, money markets, etc. Mike Vetter will contact Mark Nicholson at DA Davidson to see what he recommends and/or if he can help us choose the best course.

District 4 SAF Council Rep – Johnny Hodges

- Johnny introduced himself to the group as the new District Rep for District 4.
- Michael Goergen sends a summary out every Friday to all the state chairs. Scott Kuehn hasn't seen one yet, so Johnny will make sure his email is on the distribution list.
- Priority nationally is on member retention – trying to see if the new membership fee structure is having an impact.
- Nationally, SAF has run a deficit for the last several years. Selling property at Wild Acres will generate income to help the finances of SAF. Of the 28 acres, SAF will retain about 9 acres.

Membership Report – Steve Hayes

- The tiered membership – Silver, Gold and Platinum has resulted (nationally) in about 78% staying with Gold, about 20% dipping to Silver and a small percentage have gone Platinum. Montana seems to be following that trend.
- In Montana 13-15% of SAF members are retired. The student percentages also appear to have dropped, but that might be due to glitches with the lists distributed by the national office. Steve reports many errors with those lists.
- Scott asked Johnny Hodges to take that concern to the national office.

Student Chapter Involvement – John Goodburn

- Membership in the student chapter at UM is up and there's a new chair, after the first contested election in years.
- 5 students attended the national convention in Hawaii, with help from the Missoula and State Chapters and will be reporting back to the Missoula Chapter meeting.
- The students would like to arrange a mill tour – John will email Scott and/or Gordy with details and contact information for the Student Chapter Chair.
- There are an estimated 15-16 members in the student chapter of SAF

Forest Industry Appreciation Week – Bob Harrington

- This was the first year, so expectations were just to get it off the ground was successful.
- The week started slowly, but picked up speed as the week went on. In Helena, the Lt. Gov. attended and accompanied the group for the tour of Marks Lumber and lunch, etc.
- Events at several mills, and events in Kalispell and Missoula with the annual Chamber Tour.
- We did get some decent press coverage out of several of the events. In all, a successful endeavor that we'll want to do again.
- The challenge will be to get a good group of people working early to put together an event that does a better job of attracting politicians and small business owners to tour the mills and get involved, etc. Also, need to increase media outreach.
- DNRC purchased headsets (100) to enable the tours to be more effective for the organizers and the participants. Scott said that was money well spent...
- Bob's hope is that MWPA, the agencies, SAF, and others will work together to host the week next year.

Walk in the Forest Day – Amy Helena

- Amy Helena presented a proposal for Walk in the Forest (starting in Potomac) and possibly replicating it around the state.

- Plans are to apply for a grant from the Foresters Fund to cover expenses.
- This will be a State Chapter event.
- Bob asked about alignment of all of the education programs out there: PLT, Forest in Every Classroom, Forest Discovery Days, Walk in the Forest.
- Cindy talked about how events might dovetail into statewide PLT efforts. Will roll request in the Industry week for Foresters Fund request, with the State Chapter covering the balance – both events will occur in the fall.

2012 SAF National Convention – Scott Kuehn

- IESAF is host. They've been having conference calls one a month – working on tours. Peter Kolb submitted two tours, both were not approved by national, so there won't be a Montana-based tour in conjunction with the conference.
- Montana has offered to help with registration and other event-based help, etc. Because the national convention is so close, there will be no statewide meeting per se, instead encouraging folks to attend national. We are looking at hosting a reception at the National Convention (maybe co-hosted) with UM. Kuehn will work with Jim Burchfield on planning this event.
- Bob H. suggested thinking about making funds available for scholarships for full-members who aren't getting sponsorship from their employer. Scott will forward requests for help to all chapters to their members have the opportunity to volunteer.

Forestry Day at Fort Missoula – Scott Kuehn

- April 28, 2012
- Scott needs more trailers, displays and family activities. If you have ideas or contacts, please send them along.

Flathead Chapter Report – Andrew Beltz

- The Chapter offers 2 scholarships every year \$500 for FVCC and SKC for resource management studies. They were awarded in January.
- Upcoming meeting topics:
 - January topic – National Convention Recap Honolulu,
 - Feb 17 – Avalanche Center
 - March 15th – CFLRP update,
 - April 19th – Brian Sugdin Native Fish HCP and update on Clean Water Act.
 - May 7-12 Flathead Family Forestry Expo.,
 - June – Joint meeting with Libby Chapter to look at post-fire rehab on Chippy Creek. Fall – national convention and other activities TBA>
 - Financial - \$3,798 checking & \$12,873 savings

Libby Chapter Report – Ben Valentine

- Awarded 2 membership scholarships also in the chapter, which is listed as having 30 members.
- Upcoming meeting topics:
 - February – Lynn Haggerty Kootenai NF on Montmore Mine EIS/history 2.23.
 - March – USFWS update on wolf hunts and situation in Libby area,
 - April – Stinger Welding in Libby will make a presentation,
 - May – plan for a mill tour in Eureka (pellet mill)....
 - May meeting with NW Management

Missoula Chapter Report – Mike Vetter

- January – Byron Bonney gave talk on Bitterroot RC&D/programs,
- Upcoming meeting topics:
 - February – Rich Lane with Boise, Inc. about chipping facility in Bonner/students talk about trip to National Convention.
 - March – Matt Jolley fire dynamics in beetle kill (pending).
 - Other ideas – Blue Marble, 25X25 organization, honeybee expert from UM, 2000 Fires Retrospective.
- Donated money to plant tree for Bill Carr and sponsored framing of a couple of posters for the historical museum. Sponsored students to national convention as well
- Chapter awards. Forester of the Year, Amy Helena, Field Forester Henry Fassnacht, Citizen was Peter Kolb, Jack Lasinski 50-year and Steve got his Fellow Award.

Awards Committee Report – Bob Harrington

- Has Fellow Award for Patrick Heffernan....need to pick an appropriate time to present it – state chapter will get it framed.
- Nominations and/or local award winners forwarded to Bob to coordinate presentations during the National Convention on Spokane, since there will be no state meeting in 2012.

Policy Committee Report – none

Communications Report – none

Foresters Fund Report – none

Past Chair Report – Bob Harrington

- Bob shared a thank you card from the students who attended National Convention in Hawaii.

New Business

Northwest Office – Paula Short

- Paula proposed a discussion with the staff at the Northwest Office (which serves the state SAF organizations in OR, WA, and most recently, AK and Inland Empire.
- Paula will arrange to have a representative from Northwest Office participate in next exec. Committee meeting.

Calendar of Events – Paula Short

- Remember to post your events on the Montana SAF calendar – forward them to Sherri McWilliams for posting.

Next Meeting Date

- Paula will send a doodle poll to select a meeting date in late May.

Adjourn – Travel Home Safely!

Meeting minutes respectfully submitted by:

Paula Short, Secretary/Treasurer
February 14, 2012

DRAFT